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Coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report has been prepared pursuant to paragraph 7 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/30. It provides a description of the activities undertaken by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in cooperation with other agencies and organizations of the United Nations system in the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda at the global, regional and national levels.

The report concludes with five recommendations by which Member States are called upon:

(a) To continue to give appropriate consideration to the role of urbanization in sustainable development in their discussions on the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals;

(b) To adopt integrated approaches that engage all key stakeholders and levels of subnational government in order to produce innovative solutions to foster economic, environmental and social sustainability;

(c) To ensure the alignment of ideas on cities and human settlements across the current consultations on major global issues, including on the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals, climate change and the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development;

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(d) To establish or strengthen national urban policies in order to provide for the coordinated development of urban settlements of all sizes and to fully harness the potential contribution of urbanization to sustainable development;

(e) To make use of the international guidelines on urban and territorial planning approved by the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in April 2015 as a framework for improving policies, plans, designs and implementation processes for more compact, better integrated and connected urban settlements that foster sustainability and resilience, including through effective climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.

I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared pursuant to paragraph 7 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/30.

2. During the reporting period, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) continued to broaden its cooperation with United Nations system organizations and agencies. Among the key vehicles for cooperation were the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) (including its three pillars of the United Nations Development Group, the High-level Committee on Programmes and the High-level Committee on Management), the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs, the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee. UN-Habitat continued to provide technical inputs to reports of the Secretary-General and other relevant United Nations system-wide documents, including those relating to the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals.

3. Outside the United Nations system, UN-Habitat continued to strengthen its relations with Habitat Agenda partners, including civil society groups, the private sector, professional bodies and research and training institutions.

II. Activities at the global level

4. Activities at the global level in which UN-Habitat worked with numerous United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, Governments and a wide range of partners included preparations for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), the preparation of a High-level Committee on Programmes paper on urbanization and sustainable development, the World Urban Campaign, consultations on the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals and contributions to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the first integration segment of the Economic and Social Council.

A. Preparatory activities for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development

5. The General Assembly, by its resolution 66/207, decided to convene the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), in 2016, to reinvigorate the global commitment to sustainable urbanization through a "New Urban Agenda". The General Assembly subsequently decided that Habitat III would be held in Quito during the week of 17 October 2016 and that the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) would be held in Indonesia in July 2016.

6. In paragraph 11 of its resolution 24/14, the UN-Habitat Governing Council invited the Secretary-General of the Conference to consider establishing an effective United Nations system-wide coordination mechanism to enable the effective participation and contributions of United Nations bodies, including the specialized agencies and the international financial institutions, at all stages of the preparatory process and at the Conference itself.

7. The third meeting of the United Nations inter-agency coordinating committee for Habitat III (established in Geneva in July 2013) was held during the seventh session of the World Urban Forum. An open consultation meeting was also held during the first session of the Preparatory Committee. A United Nations task team on Habitat III was established during the second half of 2014 and its first meeting was held in January 2015. The task team has prepared issue papers that examine key challenges and provide recommendations with respect to the most significant urban topics to be considered within the Habitat III preparatory process. The team is also carrying out an assessment of ongoing efforts within the United Nations system, including projects and practices on sustainable urban development.

8. In accordance with paragraph 5 of UN-Habitat Governing Council resolution 24/14, and in line with paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 67/216 and paragraph 9 of Assembly resolution 68/239, regional reports drawing on national reports and on available knowledge, resources and data are being prepared in cooperation with the United Nations regional commissions and other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations.

B. High-level Committee on Programmes working group on a new United Nations urban agenda

9. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat continued to chair the High-level Committee on Programmes working group on a new United Nations urban agenda, which was established in early July 2014. The working group consists of the following core United Nations system entities: Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), World Trade Organization (UNWTO), Universal Postal Union (UPU), World Bank, World Food Programme (WFP), World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and United Nations University (UNU).

10. The High-level Committee on Programmes working group prepared a draft paper, which is still a work in progress, entitled "Urbanization and sustainable development: the United Nations system's input to a New Urban Agenda". The main objectives of the paper are: (a) to develop a coherent United Nations system input to the Habitat III preparatory process, in particular towards the outcome document of the conference, which is to be entitled the "New Urban Agenda"; (b) to ensure policy coherence and cooperation in the implementation of the sustainable cities and human settlements dimension of the post-2015 development agenda and of the outcome of Habitat III; (c) to provide a framework for the United Nations system organizations to showcase their work on urban issues.

11. The paper addresses the challenges facing today's urbanization patterns and the opportunities that urbanization offers for sustainable development. It sets out, for consideration by the High-level Committee on Programmes and eventually by CEB, 8 guiding principles and 10 key levers of transformative change towards sustainable urbanization that could be considered in the formulation of a "New Urban Agenda", the envisaged outcome document of Habitat III.

12. The High-level Committee on Programmes working group has also proposed that CEB issue a joint statement on urbanization and sustainable development at Habitat III. This proposal was accepted by the High-level Committee on Programmes at its twenty-ninth session (11-12 March 2015), but, at the time of writing, it was awaiting approval by CEB. The High-level Committee on Programmes working group is further developing a proposal on issue-based partnership in the area of urbanization.

C. World Urban Campaign

13. The World Urban Campaign was launched in March 2010 at the fifth session of the World Urban Forum. It has evolved from a knowledge-sharing network into a think tank and has been considerably strengthened, in terms of both legitimacy and the number of partners engaged.

14. The Campaign currently includes more than 75 partners and members, representing major constituencies and umbrella organizations with large global outreach. Its partners are instrumental for UN-Habitat in the promotion of urbanization issues and solutions in general, as well as Habitat III. Campaign members also act as multipliers in terms of the dissemination of key messages.

15. Since the sixth session of the World Urban Forum, held in Naples, Italy, in September 2012, and the launch of the "Manifesto for cities: the urban future we want", the World Urban Campaign has become actively engaged in the Habitat III preparatory process. Partners have recognized the strategic importance of Habitat III to the elevation of the urban agenda globally.

16. During the reporting period, meetings of the World Urban Campaign were held to facilitate the process of consultation and consensus-building among stakeholders, identify and collect good practices that could contribute to the New Urban Agenda, and support national urban campaigns and their communication and outreach activities initiated for the purpose of contributing to national preparations for Habitat III.

17. A consensus document on the "City we need", a vision of the twenty-first century city drafted by the World Urban Campaign's Habitat III working group in September 2013, was presented in New York in March 2014 by key partners, including the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Cities and Climate Change, Michael R. Bloomberg, in collaboration with the Ford Foundation. As part of the "City we need" process towards Habitat III, the UN-Habitat initiative "Urban Thinkers Campus" took place in Caserta, Italy, in October 2014.

D. Post-2015 development agenda and sustainable urbanization

18. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat continued to actively participate in the post-2015 sustainable development goals process in order to provide adequate information to Governments, United Nations system organizations and other stakeholders on the role of urbanization in sustainable development, with a view to ensuring that sustainable urbanization is adequately reflected in the process.

19. Building on its earlier contribution to the work of the United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda, UN-Habitat and UNEP both lent further technical support to the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals, leading a group of more than 15 United Nations agencies on the topic of sustainable cities and human settlements. In that role, UN-Habitat and UNEP led the drafting of a collation of proposed targets and indicators in support of the work of the Open Working Group.

20. UN-Habitat also continued to participate in the activities of the Sustainable Cities Thematic Group of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network and to work with the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments and the Communitas Coalition for Sustainable Cities and Regions.

21. As Vice-Chair of UN-Water, UN-Habitat also contributed to the sustainable development goals consultation process and to the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda with regard to water and sanitation.

22. After more than a year of discussion and negotiation, the Open Working Group, at its thirteenth and final session, adopted by acclamation on 19 July 2014 a proposal on sustainable development goals and targets that includes proposed goal 11, "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable" (see A/68/970 and Corr.1).

E. Processes under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

23. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat participated actively in processes under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, primarily under work stream 2 of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action. For example, the Deputy Executive Director of UN-Habitat chaired the forum on experiences and best practices of cities and subnational authorities in relation to adaptation and mitigation, held at the Climate Change Conference in Bonn, Germany, in June 2014. UN-Habitat contributed to the first "Cities Day" ever held at such a conference. Other processes in which UN-Habitat participated include:

(a) Sixth part of the second session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action, held in Bonn, Germany in October 2014;

(b) Twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Lima in December 2014;

(c) Eighth part of the second session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action, held in Geneva in February 2015.

UN-Habitat also participates in the High-level Committee on Programmes Working Group on Climate Change.

24. In December 2014, UN-Habitat launched a multi-stakeholder initiative to develop guidelines for city climate action plans, with a target launch date for version 1.0 planned for December 2015, at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris. Activities during the reporting period included a partners' meeting at the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties, held in Lima in December 2014, and an expert group meeting in Oslo (March 2015). To date, the United Nations entities involved include UNEP, the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

F. Integration segment of the Economic and Social Council

25. The first-ever integration segment of the Economic and Social Council was held from 27 to 29 May 2014 in New York. It was organized by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, in collaboration with UN-Habitat and the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and with the support of United Cities and Local Governments. The segment focused on the theme "Sustainable urbanization" and was aimed at exploring how urbanization can be an effective tool for the integration of economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. Habitat III featured prominently in the discussions at the integration segment.

26. At the segment, it was concluded that urbanization can serve as a transformational force for achieving and advancing sustainable development. To this end, an integrated approach that engages all key stakeholders in order to produce innovative solutions aimed at fostering economic, environmental and social sustainability will be required.

27. As stated in the summary of the integration segment, the outcome of the segment would not only feed into the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council, including the high-level political forum on sustainable development, but would also serve as the Council's contribution to Habitat III in 2016.

G. World Humanitarian Summit

28. UN-Habitat contributed to the preparatory process of the World Humanitarian Summit to be held in Istanbul, Turkey, in May 2016. In particular, it led the consultative process on urban issues, working closely with the secretariat of the World Humanitarian Summit, the International Rescue Committee and the Department for International Development of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. This effort is in response to the Secretariat's recognition of the importance of reshaping the current humanitarian system so as to enable it to better respond to humanitarian crises within cities, in the light of their complexity.

III. Activities at the regional level

29. At the regional level, UN-Habitat continued to work collaboratively with other United Nations system organizations to assist in the organization of, or contribute

to, regional ministerial meetings on housing and urban development. It also worked closely with two regional development banks to promote the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

A. Regional ministerial meetings

30. The fifth Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development was held in Seoul from 3 to 5 November 2014 under the theme "Equal opportunity for sustainable development". The ministers adopted the Seoul Declaration, in which, among other things, they emphasized the linkage between sustainable urbanization and sustainable development, agreed on the need for an urban sustainable development goal and the formulation of the New Urban Agenda at Habitat III,and decided to deepen their commitment to collaboration and cooperation in the region to make cities and human settlements integrated, inclusive, sustainable and resilient. The ministers also decided to develop and implement innovative national policies promoting inclusiveness and equity in urban planning, urban development and infrastructure expansion.

31. UN-Habitat continued to participate regularly in the meetings of the League of Arab States Ministerial Council on Housing and Construction and its Technical Advisory Committee. UN-Habitat and the League of Arab States created a joint committee, also composed of representatives of Arab States, to support the elaboration of an Arab strategy for housing and urban development. They are also collaborating in the development and launch of the Arab Ministerial Forum on Housing and Urban Development, whose first meeting is expected to be held in Egypt during the second half of 2015. The League of Arab States will be a key regional partner in preparations for Habitat III.

32. UN-Habitat worked in close collaboration with the African Union, through the African Urban Agenda, including on a presidential initiative led by the Presidents of Ghana and Nigeria to promote urbanization as a transformative force for Africa's development, within the context of Agenda 2063, and to strengthen the continent's participation in achieving the global milestones of the post-2015 development agenda, Habitat III and the sustainable development goals, among other things.

33. In this context, UN-Habitat supported the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization during its meeting at the end of March 2015. UN-Habitat organized a side event, attended by the Chair of the African Union Commission, on the role of Africa's urbanization in the structural transformation of Africa. The African Union Chair accepted the request by UN-Habitat to have the next summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union deliberate on the theme of urbanization in Africa.

34. UN-Habitat continued working in collaboration with the general assembly of the Ministers and High Authorities of Housing and Urban Development of Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) to produce a report on measuring the housing deficit in the region. The final report was presented at the twenty-third meeting of the Ministers and High Authorities of Housing and Urban Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Mexico City in August 2014. UN-Habitat continued to support the General and Technical Secretariat of the Ministers and High Authorities of

Housing and Urban Development of Latin America and the Caribbean in developing its technical agenda.

B. Cooperation with regional financial institutions

35. UN-Habitat signed a cooperation agreement with the African Development Bank in September 2014 to implement joint activities in the field of housing.

36. The Development Bank of Latin America is part of a coalition supporting the UN-Habitat City Prosperity Initiative in 17 Colombian cities and is the main supporter of the Initiative in five cities in Brazil, Ecuador, Panama and Peru. The National Workers Housing Fund Institute of Mexico also provided critical support, along with the Government of Mexico, for the City Prosperity Initiative in 130 cities.

37. UN-Habitat also worked with the Inter-American Development Bank through the Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance. The Bank was represented at the seventh session of the World Urban Forum and at a meeting of the Advisory Committee of the UN-Habitat Cities and Climate Change Initiative.

IV. Thematic activities at the national and subnational levels

38. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat cooperated with United Nations system organizations and other partners in implementing activities, including operational projects, at the national and subnational levels in the following thematic areas: urban legislation, land and governance; urban planning and design; urban economy and municipal finance; urban basic services; housing and slum upgrading; risk reduction and rehabilitation; research and capacity development; and gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women.

A. Urban legislation, land and governance

39. FAO and UN-Habitat worked together in the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests, in the Context of National Food Security, endorsed by the Committee on Food Security in 2012. The joint development of an urban application of the Guidelines is also taking place, as is the mainstreaming of the Guidelines in the work of the UN-Habitat Global Land Tool Network and FAO programming at all levels. The two organizations also collaborated on analysing the interrelation between tenure security and food security, so as to tighten the delivery on food security of the land tools developed by UN-Habitat through its Global Land Tool Network.

40. UN-Habitat and UN-Women collaborated on a joint tenure security initiative that defines which tenure options within the continuum of land rights work best for different socioeconomic categories of women. UNOPS also continued to provide key support to UN-Habitat on the Global Land Tool Network programme.

41. UN-Habitat continued to work in close collaboration with the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. A member of the Permanent Forum participated in the

round table on indigenous issues in cities at the seventh session of the World Urban Forum, in April 2014, and UN-Habitat participated in the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in September 2014.

42. UN-Habitat worked with IFAD on strengthening land and natural resource tenure security in Eastern and Southern Africa. This was based on a three-year agreement signed by UN-Habitat and IFAD in 2013 in order to develop and integrate pro-poor tools and approaches for securing land and natural resource rights in the Fund's natural resources management programmes. The two agencies are also collaborating in the joint implementation of tenure security projects in Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique and Uganda.

43. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) re-established an Urban Section in an effort to strengthen its work on urbanization as a key factor in the structural transformation of Africa. Within the framework of the memorandum of understanding between UN-Habitat and ECA signed in 2012, UN-Habitat continued to support the consortium for the Land Policy Initiative, which is also supported by the African Development Bank and the African Union Commission. UN-Habitat is part of the steering committee of the Initiative and has led the component on capacity development in land governance, with the aim of supporting member States in implementing the Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges in Africa, signed by Heads of State and Government of the African Union in 2009.

44. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and UN-Habitat launched a land tenure initiative for the Asia-Pacific region. The two organizations also held a multi-stakeholder consultation, in partnership with FAO and the International Federation of Surveyors. Additionally, UN-Habitat, with the support of ESCAP, will build the capacity of Habitat Agenda partners to engage in policy dialogues and programmes in the Asia-Pacific region within the context of global milestones.

45. Joint work included the provision of technical and financial support to the secretariat of the Land Policy Initiative in the preparation and implementation of the inaugural Conference on Land Policy held in Addis Ababa in November 2014. The UN-Habitat Deputy Executive Director attended the opening session of the Conference, where she highlighted the role of land in Africa's transformation and what the UN-Habitat/Global Land Tool Network- Land Policy Initiative partnership can do to realize that goal.

46. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, at its twenty-second session, and the Governing Council of UN-Habitat, at its twenty-fourth session, adopted complementary resolutions on action for the creation of safer cities, in particular the strengthening of guidelines for the implementation of crime prevention programmes at the local level and the development of United Nations system-wide guidelines on safer cities. In addition, joint project documents on urban safety monitoring for Africa and Latin America for 2016 and 2017 have been developed. An additional joint programme document on safer cities as a way of supporting Member States and implementing the post-2015 development agenda is under preparation in cooperation with the World Bank.

47. UN-Habitat worked with the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group of the Secretariat to explore how to promote the integration of human rights and the

rule of law as a cross-cutting issue in all organizations and how to promote system-wide cooperation on rule of law and human rights issues, including cross-posting of staff, They also explored common resource and administrative approaches.

48. UN-Habitat is a member of the World Bank Group's advisory committee on the Land Governance Assessment Framework, and the two organizations continued to collaborate in the implementation of the Framework at the country level.

49. The UN-Habitat Global Land Tool Network also worked with the World Bank, UNDP and the Land Policy Initiative on the Global Land Indicators Initiative, which developed global land indicators to harmonize monitoring efforts in the area of land tenure security and land governance. The Initiative's indicators were used for advocacy in the sustainable development goals process by a civil society coalition of 25 organizations under the auspices of Oxfam and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network. A technical and political consensus was reached around the global land indicators development process, with new major institutions such as the Land Policy Initiative, UNDP and the University of Greenwich, United Kingdom, joining the initiative.

50. UN-Habitat reviewed the United Nations system land and conflict agenda with the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and UNEP, in preparation for the development of a United Nations guidance note on land and conflict that could ensure a more relevant and fit-for-purpose approach to land-in-conflict contexts.

51. UN-Habitat also worked with the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context and UNHCR on the right to adequate housing and land tenure programme. The fruits of this collaboration were formally acknowledged by the Human Rights Council, which encouraged States to take these guidelines into account when planning and implementing measures to improve the security of tenure for the urban poor (see Human Rights Council resolution 25/17).

52. UN-Habitat worked with the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management to develop a fit-for-purpose land administration approach, which found a place in the Beijing Declaration on Sustainable Development with Geospatial Information adopted at the third High-Level Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management, held in Beijing in October 2014.

53. UN-Habitat co-led the "Consultations on localizing the sustainable development goals" together with UNDP, on behalf of the United Nations Development Group, and with the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments for the Post-2015 Development Agenda towards Habitat III. The Governments of Ecuador, Ghana and Italy co-hosted a process that involved 13 national consultations, 6 regional dialogues and 4 global dialogues, as well as an e-discussion. The key role of local and regional governments in development was underlined throughout the process, which resulted in a strategic global coalition of partners, including national and local governments, civil society groups and United Nations agencies committed to working together in localizing the post-2015 development agenda.

B. Urban planning and design

54. UN-Habitat continued to be involved at the senior level in the activities of the Environment Management Group and at the technical level in the activities of its Issues Management Groups on Biodiversity and on Green Economy. A system-wide strategy on environment, progress on United Nations agency-wide reduction of carbon emissions and the need to reassess the objectives of the Environment Management Group after the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda were discussed at the meeting of the Group in September 2014.

55. Since mid-2014, UN-Habitat has been strengthening its collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). UN-Habitat participated in the twenty-eighth ESCWA ministerial session, held in Tunis in September 2014, and the expert group meeting on inclusive social development in the Arab region held in Beirut in November 2014, which provided insight into the role of cities in promoting social and spatial inclusion. In addition, UN-Habitat contributed to the chapter on urban sustainability for an ESCWA report on sustainable development in the Arab region. ESCWA will be involved in the last phase of the elaboration of the Arab strategy for housing and sustainable urban development developed by UN-Habitat and will also lead the regional preparations for Habitat III.

56. In March 2013, the Executive Directors of UNEP and UN-Habitat reviewed the collaboration between the two organizations and explored how to strengthen future partnership and the joint delivery of programmes. Based on that review, the Greener Cities Partnership was launched at the seventh session of the World Urban Forum, in April 2014, with three selected priorities: (a) resilient, resource-efficient cities; (b) sustainable transport and mobility; and (c) waste and waste water management.

57. On resilient, resource-efficient cities, the first priority area, UN-Habitat and UNEP are addressing three sub-areas: city-level ecosystem-based adaptation, integrated resource flows and reduction of urban sprawl. On sustainable transport and mobility, UN-Habitat is guiding the work on urban planning to help cities to avoid unsustainable patterns of transport. The two agencies, together with the World Bank, also facilitated the formation of the secretariat of the Africa Sustainable Transport Forum, with the first expert and ministerial conferences being held in Nairobi in October 2014.

58. During 2014, UN-Habitat supported the Executive Office of the Secretary-General in developing several multi-stakeholder "city" initiatives in the lead-up to the Climate Summit, held in New York on 23 September 2014. The Secretary-General had requested the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to lead the "cities" work stream leading up to the Summit. The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Cities and Climate Change, Michael R. Bloomberg, co-led this work stream.

59. The objective of this effort was to help to shape a set of multi-party initiatives to support action on climate change in urban areas. The four collaborative "city" initiatives launched at that time, whose members included UN-Habitat, were: (a) Compact of Mayors (with the World Bank); (b) Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance (with the World Bank and GEF); (c) Urban Electric Mobility Initiative (with the International Finance Corporation); and (d) the Resilient Cities Acceleration Initiative (with the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and the World Bank).

60. UN-Habitat advised on several climate change initiatives led by other organizations. Along with the World Bank and UNEP, UN-Habitat serves on the Advisory Committee of the Global Protocol for Community-scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories. Additionally, UN-Habitat, along with other United Nations agencies, participated in consultative meetings with GEF on its sustainable cities integrated approach pilot in August 2014 and with the World Bank on its city climate planner certification programme in March 2015. Along with UNEP, UN-Habitat provided advice to the Urban Climate Change Research Network in September 2014.

61. The external Advisory Committee of the UN-Habitat Cities and Climate Change Initiative convened two times during the period: in April 2014 (in Medellin, Colombia) and in March 2015 (in Oslo). Among others, representatives of the World Bank, UNEP, GEF, and the Cities Alliance participated in one or both meetings.

62. The United Nations Centre for Regional Development and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) contributed to the drafting of the UN-Habitat-led international guidelines on urban and territorial planning. The guidelines constitute the global framework for improving policies, plans, designs and implementation processes for more compact, socially inclusive, better integrated and connected cities and territories that foster sustainable urban development.

63. In Myanmar, UN-Habitat and UNEP are currently jointly implementing the Myanmar Climate Change Alliance programme, funded by the European Union, under its Global Climate Change Alliance programme umbrella.

64. UN-Habitat and UNESCO are developing a joint programme on urban heritage preservation and regeneration of historic neighbourhoods, which includes public spaces, embracing a social and human approach to sustainable revitalization and preserving cultural heritage and cultural identity.

C. Urban economy and municipal finance

65. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat, the Development Bank of Latin America and ESCAP engaged with cities and national Governments to enhance research and capacity on the urban economy. Six city case studies, drawn from Nairobi and Cape Town in Africa, Dili and Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, in Asia, and Quito and Lima in Latin America, have contributed to improved awareness of spatial and structural economic transformation of urban economies.

66. UN-Habitat supported the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth substantially and politically. In September 2014, UN-Habitat initiated and supported the Envoy's mission to Mogadishu, where he contributed significantly to raising awareness of the critical situation facing young people in the country. A donor meeting was organized under the auspices of the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia to strengthen the international community's commitment to youth programming in Somalia.

67. The Envoy on Youth also participated in UN-Habitat-organized side events at the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held in New York in March 2014, and in the side event "Harnessing the potential of urban public space for women and youth" during the first session of the Preparatory

Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in New York in September 2014.

68. UN-Habitat further contributed to organizing the first Global Forum on Youth Policies convened by the Office of the Envoy on Youth in partnership with the Government of Azerbaijan and other United Nations agencies in October 2014, during which UN-Habitat organized the substantive sessions on sustainable urbanization and youth and post-conflict situations.

69. In Somalia, the capacity of local governments in municipal finance was strengthened under the United Nations Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery, with technical assistance from UN-Habitat. This is manifested in increased municipal revenue generation for local governments in seven districts (Hargeysa, Borama, Berbera, Gabiley, Sheikh, Odweine and Buroa) in Somaliland and six districts (Garowe, Qardho, Boosaaso, Bander Beyla, Eyl and Jariiban) in Puntland.

70. In addition, a geographic information system (GIS)-based building and property database was developed and updated. The 13 districts in Somaliland and Puntland have increased building and property taxation revenue, accounting for 15 to 25 per cent of total revenue generated in each district, with a collection rate of 50 to 85 per cent.

D. Urban basic services

71. During the reporting period, UNAIDS and UN-Habitat published a report on HIV in cities. The purpose of the report was to provide an overview of the HIV epidemic in urban areas in developing countries, focusing on intra-urban differences, and to introduce a programmatic framework for action by cities. In December 2014, French mayors and representatives of UNAIDS and UN-Habitat, among others, attended a meeting at which they signed the Paris Declaration: Fast-track cities: ending the AIDS epidemic: cities achieving 90-90-90 targets by 2020.

72. The collaboration of UN-Habitat with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and other partners, including UNIDO, led to the development of the Urban Electric Mobility Vehicles Initiative, which was launched at the Climate Summit on 22 September 2014. The initiative is aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions by encouraging the widespread adoption of electric mobility in cities, such that by 2030, electric light-duty vehicles will account for 30 per cent of vehicle sales. UN-Habitat is also working with other agencies, including United Nations agencies, as a member of the technical working group established to support the Secretary-General's High-level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport.

73. UN-Habitat is currently supporting the implementation of two projects funded by GEF in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda, and in the East African countries, where UNEP is acting as the GEF agency and UN-Habitat is an executing partner. The first project focuses on sustainable urban transport systems in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda and the second project is on the promotion of energy efficiency in buildings in East Africa. The objective is to mainstream energy efficiency measures in building policies, housing finance and building practices.

74. In May 2014, UN-Habitat participated in the first annual Sustainable Energy for All Forum with a side event on sustainable energy use in cities. This event was

jointly organized by UN-Habitat, UNEP and UN-Energy. UN-Habitat has also contributed significantly to the discussion on post-2015 sustainable development goals by providing inputs to the proposed goal on energy, under the umbrella of the UN-Energy family.

75. UN-Habitat continued to participate in the activities of UN-Water and has played a key role in the task force on wastewater management. UN-Habitat also contributed to the UN-Water position paper on the theme "A post-2015 global goal for water: synthesis of key findings and recommendations from UN-Water", the UN-Water analytical brief on wastewater management, published in February 2015 and the *United Nations World Water Development Report 2015: Water for a Sustainable World*, which was launched in March 2015. Within the UN-Water framework, UN-Habitat is also working with UNEP, the World Health Organization (WHO) and other United Nations agencies to establish an integrated monitoring mechanism for water and sanitation-related sustainable development goal targets.

76. UN-Habitat and UNEP are also co-chairs of the Steering Committee of the Global Wastewater Initiative. A unified post-2015 monitoring framework is being developed with support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

E. Housing and slum upgrading

77. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat established a partnership with UNFPA in the area of slum upgrading and maternal health. The focus is on working collaboratively in community projects that contain components of health, human rights, gender equality and youth development issues. It is aimed at examining how slum upgrading affects the improvement of maternal health and at jointly developing targeted action to complement the improvement of living conditions in slums, with a particular focus on young mothers. Four pilot countries have been selected, namely, Kenya, Myanmar, Nigeria and Sri Lanka.

78. In the framework of the participatory slum upgrading programme implemented in 35 countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific, UN-Habitat is continuing to mainstream programme principles and priorities in the work of the United Nations country teams. Twenty-five countries already reflect the programme in their United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks. For example, in Togo and Lesotho, there is close collaboration with UNDP in which UNDP is financing an additional pro-poor housing study. In Côte d'Ivoire, the participatory slum upgrading programme was incorporated into the urban development programme, and UNDP and UN-Habitat are sharing methodologies for inclusive urban development through participatory slum upgrading.

79. In the Asia-Pacific region, UN-Habitat continued supporting UNICEF in slum upgrading actions in Karachi under the UNICEF polio eradication programme in Pakistan, which is part of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. In future, participatory urban slum upgrading, focusing on reduction of the prevalence of polio, will extend beyond Karachi to other cities in Sindh Province.

80. UN-Habitat and ECLAC collaborated on a report on measuring housing deficits in the Latin America and Caribbean region. Key findings and case studies were presented at the seventh session of the World Urban Forum, held in Medellin, Colombia, in April 2014.

81. Throughout 2014, UN-Habitat further supported the Government of Bangladesh, in collaboration with UNDP, through the Urban Partnerships for Poverty Reduction programme, launched as far back as 2008. Focusing on the facilitation of good local governance through community participation, in 2014, UN-Habitat expanded its technical support to the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives and UNDP to engage 24 city corporations and municipalities and some 5,330 community groups in urban informal settlements, reaching 388,900 households, the majority of which are headed by women. The expanded assistance has focused on, among other things, strengthening the capacity of local governments to connect with community groups to negotiate secure tenure and land readjustment. To explore new approaches for government-led and community-driven slum upgrading cooperation, initiatives focused on bringing existing communities living in a variety of informal urban and peri-urban settlements into mainstream urban planning, budgeting and local development.

82. ECLAC contributed to the workplan for the formulation of the national policy for the system of cities and to the strengthening of the Association of Colombian Capital Cities. ECLAC and the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) collaborated with UN-Habitat in the roll-out of the Global Housing Strategy. UN-Habitat and ECE further collaborated on the Geneva United Nations Charter on Sustainable Housing.

83. The Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and the right to non-discrimination in this context collaborated with UN-Habitat on promoting the responsibilities of Governments with respect to the right to adequate housing. Specifically, UN-Habitat provided inputs to a report of the Special Rapporteur on security of tenure, including for the urban poor (A/HR/22/46A/HRC/22/46). UN-Habitat also provided input to the handbook entitled *Realising the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation: A Handbook* by the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

84. UN-Habitat strengthened its collaboration with OHCHR. The two agencies expanded joint work under the auspices of the United Nations Housing Rights Programme to include OHCHR support to the institutional mainstreaming of the human rights-based approach to sustainable urban development. The two organizations jointly published Fact Sheet No. 25/Rev.1 entitled *Forced Evictions*, produced a video clip in 2014 on forced evictions, and issued and widely disseminated a report entitled *Losing Your Home: Assessing the Impact of Eviction*.

85. UN-Habitat and UNEP continued to collaborate in the area of green buildings for sustainable housing. The two organizations have been working on a joint publication on green buildings in social housing that will be released within the framework of the UN-Habitat Global Network for Sustainable Housing. The two Programmes are also contributing to the sustainable buildings and construction programme of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns and the Global Housing Strategy.

86. In particular, UN-Habitat participated in the UNEP-Sustainable Buildings and Climate Initiative task force on greening the building sector supply chain and served on the Sustainable Social Housing Initiative project steering committee for the pilot projects in Bangladesh and India.

87. UNDP contributed to the UN-Habitat-led formulation of national housing strategies in Guyana and Lesotho. UN-Habitat also recently commenced active engagement in the Inter-Agency Support Group on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

F. Risk reduction and rehabilitation

88. UN-Habitat provides support to member States and local government partners under the umbrella of its 2008 Strategic Policy on Human Settlements and Crisis. This policy framework bridges the engagement of UN-Habitat in humanitarian as well as transitional and development environments at the global, regional, national and local levels.

89. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat supported humanitarian activities at the level of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Principals meetings, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Working Group and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Emergency Directors Group, responding to emergencies in Malawi, Mozambique, Pakistan, the Philippines, Serbia, South Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic-Iraq region, Tuvalu and the State of Palestine.

90. UN-Habitat collaborated closely in joint humanitarian and recovery programming and project implementation with UNHCR, UNICEF, UNDP, WHO, UNOPS, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and others, particularly in response to the Syrian Arab Republic-Iraq regional crisis.

91. UN-Habitat continued to chair the Inter-Agency Standing Committee reference group on meeting humanitarian challenges in urban areas. In partnership with United Nations sister agencies and international non-governmental organizations, it developed a strategy and action plan for new and improved approaches to humanitarian response in urban areas for implementation by all agencies.

92. UN-Habitat participated in the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015. It supported member States and the inter-agency secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction in shaping the urban risk reduction agenda for the next 15 years.

93. Additionally, in April 2014, UN-Habitat coordinated the formulation of the Medellin Collaboration on Urban Resilience, forging an alliance of nine organizations, implementing programmes and projects worth over $2 billion in more than 2,000 cities aimed at supporting local authorities' efforts to build cities that are resilient to all possible shocks and stresses. The nine organizations involved are UN-Habitat, the World Bank Group, the Rockefeller Foundation, the inter-agency secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, 100 Resilient Cities — Pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group and Local Governments for Sustainability.

94. UN-Habitat continued to develop tools for measurement and monitoring of the resilience of human settlements and has made considerable progress within its 10 partner cities and in a growing network of associate cities around the world. The 10 partner cities involved are Concepción (Chile), Portmore (Jamaica), Lokoja (Nigeria), Dar es Salaam (United Republic of Tanzania), Barcelona (Spain), Beirut,

Tehran,, Balangoda (Sri Lanka), Cagayan de Oro (Philippines) and Wellington (New Zealand). Additionally, a new initiative launched in July 2015 will employ a resilience framework for joint programming with humanitarian and development partners in fragile States.

95. In Africa, UN-Habitat also worked with ECA on the urban risk reduction and resilience-building programme in Portuguese-speaking African countries, which is aimed at increasing the capacities of municipalities to respond to disasters.

96. UN-Habitat seconded senior staff to the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) in order to help the Mission understand the urban dimension of the crisis and adjust the response to urban contexts. Staff were seconded to UNMEER headquarters in Accra and Monrovia.

97. In addition, UNICEF supported UN-Habitat in a series of risk reduction projects, including risk reduction and human security projects in Mozambique and Madagascar. In Mozambique, the work involves the revision of building codes and school construction norms and the development of risk reduction school curriculums and post-disaster needs assessment tools.

98. UN-Habitat was formally admitted as an observer in the Council of IOM at its 105th session, held in Geneva from 25 to 28 November 2014. UN-Habitat has also committed to deepening its working relationships with IOM in country-level operations and at the policy level, especially during preparations for the International Dialogue on Migration 2015: Conference on Migrants and Cities, to be held in Geneva in October 2015 and for Habitat III. Ongoing joint projects at the country level in Haiti, Iraq, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and the Philippines include work on reducing disaster risk, advisory work on resilient architecture and work on land issues and shelter reconstruction.

G. Research and capacity development

99. UN-Habitat worked closely with ECA and the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization on the implementation of the African Urban Agenda, including the preparation of national Habitat III reports, capacity-building for Habitat Agenda partners at the subregional level, policy dialogues and applied research in support of the preparation and adoption of the Africa regional Habitat III report and position.

100. It is expected that this partnership will raise the profile of urbanization and strengthen partnerships between State and non-State actors towards the adoption of a "New Urban Agenda", the envisaged outcome document of Habitat III.

101. UN-Habitat contributed technical and capacity development assistance in the field of sustainable urban development to UNESCO for the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development and the UNESCO Global Learning Cities Index. UNESCO also continued to contribute to the UN-Habitat-led Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance.

H. Gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women

102. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat, UN-Women and UNICEF continued to implement a five-year joint initiative on the theme "Safe and friendly cities for all", launched on 22 June 2011, to support urban safety in public spaces in eight cities: greater Beirut, Dushanbe, metropolitan Manila, Marrakech (Morocco), Nairobi, Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), San Jose and Tegucigalpa. The initiative draws on the use of innovative, gender-sensitive and evidence-based approaches. It enables local authorities and women's, youth and children's advocates to take action to increase safety and prevent and reduce violence, including sexual violence and harassment of women and girls.

103. Partnerships with United Nations organizations, particularly UN-Women, and civil society organizations were further developed through capacity-building workshops and international platforms such as the World Urban Forum, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Economic and Social Council integration segment and the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III). At the seventh session of the World Urban Forum, the Gender Equality Action Assembly and the gender and women round table provided platforms for deliberations on the New Urban Agenda and on gender and urbanization. Side events organized by UN-Habitat and UN-Women at the Economic and Social Council integration segment and at the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in September 2014 focused on public space and women, girls and youth. All advocacy events highlighted the benefits of gender equality perspectives in sustainable urbanization.

104. UN-Habitat and UNEP collaborated to ensure the inclusion of urbanization in the first-ever UNEP Global Gender and Environment Outlook, which is expected to be launched in June 2016. In addition, UN-Habitat nominated a staff member to add a chapter on sustainable urbanization to the document. It is expected that the inclusion of the chapter on sustainable urbanization and the related gender issues will further enhance the mainstreaming of gender equality and the empowerment of women in the discussion on gender and the environment.

V. Recommendations

105. In the light of the issues discussed above, Member States are called upon:

(a) To continue to give appropriate consideration to the role of urbanization in sustainable development in their discussions on the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals;

(b) To adopt integrated approaches that engage all key stakeholders and levels of subnational government in order to produce innovative solutions to foster economic, environmental and social sustainability;

(c) To ensure the alignment of ideas on cities and human settlements across the current consultations on major global issues, including on the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals, climate change and Habitat III;

(d) To establish or strengthen national urban policies in order to provide for the coordinated development of urban settlements of all sizes and to fully harness the potential contribution of urbanization to sustainable development;

(e) To make use of the international guidelines on urban and territorial planning approved by the UN-Habitat Governing Council in April 2015 as a framework for improving policies, plans, designs and implementation processes for more compact, better integrated and connected urban settlements that foster sustainability and resilience, including through effective climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.